

## **Notes from E-Science Day Discussion after Breakout Sessions**

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The day-long event, *"E-Science Day: An Opportunity for Education & Networking"*, was held at the Education Building, UC Davis Health System, Sacramento, on December 6, 2011. The event was sponsored by the UC Davis Blaisdell Medical Library and funded by the National Network of Libraries, Pacific Southwest Region. Lead coordinator for the event was Raquel Abad, Librarian, UC Davis Blaisdell Medical Library.

During the afternoon, the 60+ onsite attendees were divided into 5 groups for breakout sessions. Each session was facilitated by one of the day's guest speakers. Participants in each session were asked to consider the following questions:

- What is e-science as applied within your environment?
- Where do you see that you could support e-science activities at your library or institution? Please give some examples if you already are supporting e-science activities at your library/institution.
- Where do you see the impediments? Please offer some examples of challenges/impediments you have encountered if you are already engaged in e-science support.
- What support do you need from your library, institution and/or the Regional Medical Library?

At the last session of the day, all attendees reconvened and shared the significant issues and thoughts from each breakout group and especially commented on how the Regional Medical Library might assist them. The comments from all groups have been combined.

### E-Science

- There was some discomfort with the idea of e-science. Maybe i-science or networked science might be more appropriate terms. What seems clear is that it involves data, collaboration and integration.
- In every institution, one of the impediments to collaboration is that various researchers and departments exist in silos. Lots of gray literature being produced, without any way to keep track of it.

## Role of the Librarian

- What is the role of librarians in e-science? It was suggested that a place to start would be to conduct environmental scans of our environments to find out what researchers need. We need to get out of the library and talk to our patrons.
- Librarians could consider teaching classes on data management plans, scholarly communication, creative commons licenses, sponsor an NCBI workshop, etc. Also consider new services, like a table of contents alerting service that can be customized for researchers in specific subject areas.
- Lots of data is currently being produced by researchers, but generally librarians are not part of the scientific process - other than literature searching, EndNote, etc. We don't really have the knowledge of science subject areas to know how information might be used in that area. There are also problems with IT departments not being cooperative.
- We all should have a baseline of knowledge about Geographic Info Systems (GIS) - Software that allows you to create data files that can be used to map info and show connections.
- Librarians are the best group to connect data to people. We're smart – user centric – multidisciplinary – trustworthy – and we don't participate in turf wars. How can we take advantage of our perspective to advance knowledge regarding the sharing of data, e.g. by making those in silos aware of each other?

## How Can the Regional Medical Library Assist Librarians with E-Science?

- There was most interest in the RML helping librarians increase their knowledge of science by offering classes on scientific topics for non-scientists. Examples of topics – genomics, stem cell therapy, biophotonics, immunology, geographic information systems, etc.
- Provide a toolkit for conducting environmental scans.
- Use Midday at the Oasis to offer e-science-related topics.
- Encourage an e-science special interest group.
- Work with science graduate programs to encourage those who don't want to be researchers to become librarians in bioinformatics roles.
- Consider an e-science portal like the one created by the New England region.
- Assist with the development of job descriptions for librarians with skills sets more conducive to working with bioinformatics.
- Increase awareness of the use of MedlinePlus Connect with the electronic health record.